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Contact: Kirk Hanna
(517) 373-1635

Van Woerkom Sponsors First Senate Bill of 2003

Also attends official swearing in ceremony of the Michigan State Senate

January 8, 2003 – Senator Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Muskegon, today began his service as a Michigan Senator by introducing the first Senate Bill of the 92nd Legislative Session minutes after being sworn into the Michigan State Senate.

“It is an honor to sponsor my first piece of legislation as a Senator, and the first Senate Bill of 2003, as a measure to protect consumers from unapproved charges on their telephone bills,” Van Woerkom said.

Senate Bill 1 would prohibit telephone companies from assessing the end-user line charge (EUCL) to Michigan consumers, unless approved by the Public Service Commission. Telephone providers would be required to file an application for approval, and the commission would then have the ability to decide whether the current EUCL is a reasonable rate of return for the services provided or an excessive charge on consumers that merits adjustment or elimination.

The Michigan State Senate today also held a swearing in ceremony for the senators of the 92nd Legislative Session. The ceremony was held on the Senate Floor of the Michigan State Capitol.

“As a Senator, I promise to work hard for my constituents on issues affecting all our families,” said Senator Van Woerkom. “This includes the preservation of our natural resources, improving educational resources and promoting tourism in Michigan.”

Van Woerkom is the Chair of the Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism committee, Vice Chair of the Banking and Financial Institutions committee, and a member of the Education and Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs committees.

Note: A downloadable photograph of Senator Van Woerkom at the Senate swearing in ceremony will be available after 5 p.m. on the Senate Photowire at <http://www.senate.state.mi.us/gop/photowire/>.

A recording of Van Woerkom’s acceptance of the oath of office is also available on the Michigan Senate Hotline at (517) 373-4000.